

10/511137

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A runflat tire comprising a carcass toroidally extending over a pair of bead portions in which beads are embedded, a pair of sidewall portions and a tread portion, and a reinforcing rubber layer which has a crescent sectional shape and is arranged at the interior surface side of the carcass at least in the sidewall portions, characterized in that said carcass comprises at least one cord layers including a continuous cord and having a plurality of radial cord portions radially-arrayed between the bead portions at a given circumferential pitch P and a plurality of circumferential cord portions circumferentially connecting respective inner ends of adjacent radial cord portions in the bead portion.

2. (Original) The runflat tire according to Claim 1, wherein said carcass comprises n (n is greater than or equal to two) layers of the cord layers;
the adjacent cord layers are so arranged that their radial cord portions are circumferentially spaced with each other by a distance L obtained when said circumferential pitch P is divided by the number n;
the circumferential cord portions of the different cord layers are substantially contacted with each other to form an overlap portion in the bead portions;
said bead consists of a pair of split bead cores, said split bead cores locating on both sides of the carcass to sandwich the carcass;
said circumferential cord portions locate below a lower end of the split bead cores as viewed from the tire's radial direction; and

an inner end in the tire's radial direction of the split bead core located outside as viewed from the tire's width direction is so placed that a vertical distance from a tire bead base or its extension is not more than 5 mm.

3. (Original) The runflat tire according to Claim 2, wherein said split bead core constituting the bead is formed by helically winding a bead wire.

4. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~Claim 2 or 3~~, Claim 2, wherein said vertical distance is not more than 3 mm.

5. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~Claim 2, 3 or 4~~, Claim 2, wherein said number n of the cord layers constituting the carcass is 3.

6. (Original) The runflat tire according to Claim 5, wherein said overlap portion has a triple contact portion at which all of the circumferential cord portions of the different cord layers are substantially contacted with each other.

7. (Original) The runflat tire according to Claim 1, wherein said bead consists of a pair of split bead cores, said split bead cores locating on both sides of the carcass to sandwich the carcass; and

said carcass comprises at least one turn-up cord layers folded around the split bead core locating outside in the tire's width direction from the inner side to the outer side in the tire's width direction; and wherein

a folded end of said turn-up cord layer substantially consists of a plurality of the circumferential cord portions.

8. (Original) The runflat tire according to Claim 1, wherein a stiffener rubber tapered outwardly in the tire's radial direction is further arranged outside the bead in the tire's radial direction;

 said carcass comprises at least one turn-up cord layers folded around the bead and the stiffener rubber from the inner side to the outer side in the tire's width direction; and wherein a folded end of said turn-up cord layer substantially consists of a plurality of the circumferential cord portions.

9. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~Claim 7 or 8, Claim 7~~, wherein, as viewed in a section in the tire's width direction under a condition where the tire is assembled to its standard rim to form a tire/wheel assembly and then a small inner pressure of 15% of the maximum inner pressure is applied to the tire with no load applied thereto, the folded end of the turn-up cord layer is laid, in the tire's radial direction, inside of a line segment PA which connects an arc center point P of said flange contour and an intersection A of the inner surface of the tire and a line extending outwardly in the tire's radial direction from the center point P at an angle of 60 degrees in relation to a line parallel to the rim radial line.

10. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~Claim 7, 8 or 9, Claim 7~~, wherein, as viewed in a section in the tire's width direction under a condition where the tire is assembled to its standard rim to form a tire/wheel assembly and then a maximum load is applied to the tire with no inner pressure applied thereto, the folded end of the turn-up cord layer is laid, in the tire's radial direction, outside of a line segment QB which connects an outermost point Q of said rim guard in the tire's width direction and an intersection B of the inner surface of the tire and a line extending outwardly in the tire's radial direction from the outermost point Q at an angle of 60 degrees in relation to a line parallel to the rim radial line.

11. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~any one of Claims 7-10~~, Claim 7, wherein, as viewed from the tire's width direction, the sectional area of said stiffener rubber is in a range between 20- 25% of the sectional area of said reinforcing rubber.

12. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~any one of Claims 7-11~~, Claim 7, wherein a plurality of said circumferential cord portions constituting said folded end of the turn-up cord layer are so arranged that their positions in the tire's radial direction differ with each other.

13. (Currently Amended) The runflat tire according to ~~any one of Claims 7-12~~, Claim 7, wherein an overlap portion at which the circumferential cord portions in the different cord layers substantially contact with each other is formed in the bead portion.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of building the tire according to ~~any one of Claims 7-13~~, Claim 7, comprising the steps of
attaching, as needed, an inner liner, a reinforcing rubber, a carcass ply rubber and the like on a toroidal shaping core of a shaping body which has the shaping core, a bladder stored inside the periphery of the shaping core, and a detachable folding core enclosing the bladder when it is stored; forming, thereafter, a carcass by attaching a continuous cord while radially displacing it back and forth between the both bead portions at a given circumferential pitch P; and then folding ends of the carcass around the beads by removing the folding core and expanding the bladder stored therein.